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are devoted to a discussion of general tendencies and to a statement of conclusions.

The author's study leads him to the conclusion that it is desirable for Great Britain to organize an "intelligence department to do for the civil affairs of the empire the work now done on naval and military questions by the imperial defence committee"; and that "it is desirable to revise the continental and international treaties in 1914 so as to secure better terms for British trade." The author advocates closer relationship between the different parts of the British empire; he is of the opinion that free trade has in the past produced good results; he believes also that the problem of imperial and commercial integration of the British empire is of greater magnitude than it has been conceived to be by Mr. Chamberlain. After analyzing the conflicting interests of the United Kingdom and of her several colonies, the author urges the necessity for the establishment and equipment of an intelligence department; or, as he states: "We want in fact, (1) the imperial advisory council" meeting from time to time at London, Sydney and elsewhere; (2) "an imperial secretariat, not subordinate to any department but independent and immediately under the supervision of the prime minister; and (3) a permanent imperial commission . . . to prepare subjects for discussion at the conference, to investigate special problems referred to it by the conference . . . and to conduct inquiries, not only on matters referred to it by the conference, but also in connection with the *ad hoc* conferences which have more than once taken place in recent years upon a reference made to them by His Majesty's government and one or more colonial governments."

EMORY R. JOHNSON.

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**Egerton, Hugh E.** *Federations and Unions within the British Empire.*

Pp. 302. Price, \$2.90. New York: Oxford University Press, 1911.

Problems of organization of government, both in the British Isles and in the empire at large, have claimed increasing attention of English writers. Mr. Egerton asks attention to the federations of colonies in British dominions. The discussion is historical and comparative. English materials are well handled. There is some looseness in the discussion of American conditions and authorities. Bryce's "American Commonwealth" appears as "The American Constitution;" New Hampshire is spoken of as an independent colony at a time when it was a part of Massachusetts and the constitution is said to have been "imposed" on the colonies "by the genius of Hamilton and the character of Washington."

The portion of the book devoted to text opens with a brief treatment of early American attempts at federation, then the Canadian legislation, especially the British North America act of 1867 is reviewed, and a detailed criticism is given showing the weakness of the Canadian constitution as to definition of the field of power between the central and local authorities. Similar reviews are given for Australia and the South African Union. Emphasis is placed on the economic necessities which forced the federations.

The last chapter, comparing the constitutions of Canada, Australia and

South Africa, is the best part of the book. The chief points discussed are the uniform adoption of "responsible" government in the federations—though not always in the constituent states; the confidence in the legislatures, so strongly in contrast with recent American practice and theory, and the ease of constitutional amendment.

The last two-thirds of the book are taken up with reprints of constitutional documents illustrating the former attempts at colonial unions and the constitutions of the three great confederations of English colonies.

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**Farrand, Max.** (Ed.). *The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787.*

Three vols. Pp. xxv, 606, 667, 685. Price, \$15.00. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1911.

At first sight it might appear as truly remarkable that not until the present year, nearly a century and a quarter after the adjournment of the federal convention, has a comprehensive and trustworthy collection of the available material relating thereto been assembled and issued in a single work. To one familiar with the history of the records and literature of the convention and the inherent difficulties attendant upon such a task it is not surprising. Its successful accomplishment by Mr. Farrand in the collection under review, therefore, is recognized as a noteworthy achievement.

The incomplete and confused papers kept by the secretary of the convention, William Jackson, were turned over by him after first destroying "all the loose scraps of paper," to Washington, who subsequently deposited them in the Department of State. These, however, were not given to the public until 1819, when, in consequence of an act of Congress, John Quincy Adams, then Secretary of State, undertook the difficult task of collating and editing them. With the assistance of a few of the delegates he prepared a connected "Journal" of the convention. Owing to the unsatisfactory nature of the memoranda, this, the official journal of the convention, contained a number of mistakes, "not a few of which were important," as, for example, the inclusion of the incorrect plan furnished by Pinckney and the wrong assignment of votes, which had been kept on separate sheets. (Cf. I, 32.)

When the seal of secrecy had thus been broken, there followed in 1821 the publication of Yates's "Secret Proceedings and Debates," covering the earlier work of the convention. This was the first of a series of notes and records to be published, which together "far surpass the journal in value." Nothing further of this nature, however, was made public until after Madison's death (1836), when his elaborate notes were purchased by the government and in 1840 were published.—"At once," Mr. Farrand truly observes, "all other records paled into insignificance," for Madison's notes, after taking into consideration all other sources now available, still constitute our chief authority for the proceedings of the convention.

During the next half century not much additional contemporary material was made accessible. The accounts of the work of the convention, written by the historians Bancroft, Curtis and others were principally based on